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mer seem to consist mainly of additions to the bibliographical citations, through references to the British Museum 'Catalogue of Birds' and to the new edition of 'Naumann.' The editor's important footnotes supplement the text by the addition of various new facts that have been made public since the publication of the original edition in 1891. As a short notice of the original edition was promptly given in this journal (VIII, 1891, pp. 299, 300), and very full notices of the English translation published in 1895 (Auk, XII, 1895, pp. 322-346, and XIII, 1896, pp. 137-153), little need be said in the present connection beyond announcing the completion of this second beautifully printed edition of 'Helgoland.'—J. A. A.

**Pollard's 'Birds of my Parish.'**<sup>1</sup>—In the great procession of popular bird books that marks the present period it would seem that there is scant room for originality in the case of the later claimants for attention. That the field is not yet exhausted is well shown by the author of the 'Birds of my Parish,' which combines in a peculiar way fresh field notes with a large amount of information about the traits and behavior of captive individual birds of quite a number of the commoner British species. This is mixed with a deal of small talk of the imaginative order supposed to be said by the birds themselves. It is all very entertaining, if possibly trivial and unimportant as 'ornithology'; but the author is so thoroughly in sympathy with the feathered household pets thus brought before us, and also so much at home with the birds in their free surroundings, that this singular mixture of bird lore and 'bird talk' is decidedly pleasant reading. The scene is the "parish of Haquford in East Anglia," an area of some 1600 acres. "This small parish in Norfolk can boast," says the author, "to my present knowledge of....76 varieties. None of these are very rare or uncommon birds, but the better one knows birds, the better one loves them." Much is pleasantly said of these wild birds in the regular orthodox style of ornithology, while much more is told entertainingly of pet Bullfinches, Goldfinches, Chaffinches, Jackdaws, etc., sandwiched with imaginary soliloquies and conversations by the birds themselves, doubtless also intended to impart information and inspire sympathy.—J. A. A.

**Collett on the Skull and Auricular Openings in North European Owls.**—Dr. Collett's important paper on the asymmetry of the skull and auditory structures in the Owls of Northern Europe, originally published in Norwegian in 1881, has now been made more readily accessible to English readers by Dr. Shufeldt's recent translation,<sup>2</sup> with which the text figures

<sup>1</sup> The Birds | of my Parish | — | By Evelyn H. Pollard | With Illustrations | — | John Lane : The Bodley Head | London and New York. MDCCCC, —Crown 8vo, pp. i-xiii, 15-295, 6 photogravure plates. Price, \$1.50.

<sup>2</sup> Professor Collett on the Morphology of the Cranium and the Auricular Openings in the North-European Species of the Family Strigidæ. By R. W. Shufeldt, M. D. Journ. of Morphology, Vol. XVII, No. 1, 1900, pp. 119-176. pl. xv-xx.